IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants respectfully request that the Claims be amended so as to read as follows:

1. Canceled, without prejudice.

2. Canceled, without prejudice.

3. Cancelled, without prejudice.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 1,~~ An optical pickup device comprising:

a light source;

a light-concentrating optical system for concentrating a light beam emitted from the light source on a recording surface of an optical disk;

an optical element means for splitting the light beam that has been reflected on the recording surface and has passed through the light-concentrating optical system;

a light-receiving means for receiving a split light beam as a first light beam from the optical element means and measuring quantities of light of the split light beam; and

an aberration signal generating means for generating an aberration signal that represents an aberration of the light-concentrating optical system based on a quantity of light of a portion near an optical axis of the first light beam and a quantity of light of a portion separated from the optical axis of the first light beam,

wherein

the optical element means generates the first light beam by

splitting the light beam, which has passed through the light-concentrating optical system, along a first straight line that is perpendicular to the optical axis of the light beam and serves as a boundary such that the first light beam is directed to the light receiving means,

the light receiving means comprises a first photodetector region

and a second photodetector region arranged in positions located apart from the optical axis of the first light beam,

the first photodetector region and the second photodetector region

are provided substantially linearly symmetrical with respect to a straight line axis of symmetry corresponding to the first straight line, said straight line axis of symmetry being located on the light receiving means and extending through the optical axis of the first light beam, and

the aberration signal generating means generates the aberration

signal by using a difference between electric signals from the first photodetector region and the second photodetector region; and

wherein

the optical element means generates a second light beam by

splitting the light beam that has passed through the light-concentrating optical system along a second straight line perpendicular to the optical axis of the light beam and serves as a boundary such that the second light beam is directed to the light-receiving means,

the light-receiving means comprises a third

photodetector region and a fourth photodetector region,

the third photodetector region and the fourth photodectector

region are provided approximately linearly symmetrical with respect to an axis of symmetry of a straight line that extends through the optical axis of the second light beam and is located on the light-receiving means corresponding to the second straight line,

the third photodectector region and the fourth photodetector region are located at respective distances from the optical axis of the second light beam, said respective distances being shorter than the respective distances of the first photodetector region and the second photodetector region from the optical axis of the first light beam, and

a focal shift signal generating means is provided for generating a focal shift signal by using a difference between electric signals from the third photodetector region and the fourth photodetector region.

5. (Previously Presented) An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 4, wherein,

the focal shift signal generating means generates the focal shift signal according to calculation expressed by:

$$(S1 - S2) + (S3 - S4) \times K$$

where K is a constant, and S1, S2, S3 and S4 are signals from the third, fourth, first and second regions, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a storage means for storing a plurality of focal shift signals in correspondence with a plurality of combinations of the difference between the electric signals from the first region and the second region and the difference between the electric signals from the third region and the fourth region, and wherein

the focal shift signal generating means reads from the storage means the focal shift signal corresponding to the difference between the electric signals from the first region and the second region and the difference between the electric signals from the third region and the fourth region based on the electric signals from the first through fourth regions from the light-receiving means, and outputs the focal shift signal.

7. (Previously Presented) An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 4,

wherein

the first straight line and the first light beam are identical to the second straight line and the second light beam, respectively, when the first through the fourth photodetector regions have a common optical axis.

8. (Previously Presented) An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 7,

wherein

the third photodetector region and the fourth photodectector region of the light-receiving means are each formed in a semicircular shape whose chord coincides with the axis of symmetry, and

the first photodetector region and the second photodetector region of the light-receiving means are formed in semicircular annular shapes whose internal circumferences have radii greater than radii of outermost circumferences of the third photodetector region and the fourth photodetector region and arranged outside the outermost circumferences of the third photodector region and the fourth photo detector region, respectively.

9. (Previously Presented) An optical pickup device as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the first photodector region, the third photodetector region, the fourth photodectector region and the second photo detector region of the light-receiving means are each formed in a rectangular shape and arranged parallel in this order in a direction perpendicular to the axis of symmetry.

10. Canceled, without prejudice.

11. Canceled, without prejudice.

12. Canceled, without prejudice.

13. Canceled, without prejudice.

14. Canceled, without prejudice.